

Tier 2 CALIFORNIA'S DEFINITION OF GREEN JOBS

There was a great deal of discussion around the LMID survey that is going out this week and the information that they hope to glean from it. The survey asks employers to self-identify into the GREEN categories by their core function(s). LMID's GREEN definition focuses on the supply side of the economy—businesses that manufacture or service products tied to the five categories. (Subsequent questions in the survey ask about green or clean practices adopted by any business, addressing the demand side of the economy.) LMID is looking for the survey responses to help refine the definition—identifying businesses that may be producing or servicing green and/or clean products that are not adequately defined by the current working definition. To date, LMID has tied industry codes to their GREEN definition. Results and analysis should be available this summer to help refine the working definition further.

The following are comments made by the Green Definition Workgroup in the context of the GREEN acronym definition categories.

Green or clean is any activity or service that performs at least one of the following:

Discussion:

It was suggested to amend the first sentence in order to clarify inclusive activities and services under the GREEN acronym to read as follows: "A green or clean business or industry is a company that performs, as part of a core business function, an activity or service in at least one of the following:"

Generating and storing renewable energy

Recycling existing materials

Energy efficient product manufacturing, distribution, construction, installation, and maintenance

Education, compliance and awareness

Natural and sustainable product manufacturing

Generating and storing renewable energy - Includes alternative energy generated by, but not limited to:

- Wind
- Solar
- Water
- Biofuels
- Biomass
- Hydrogen fuel cells
- Geothermal

Recycling existing materials - Corporations involved in the collection and processing of recyclable materials, including firms running a recycling or wastewater plant. Includes environmental clean-up and remediation (does not include companies that provide bins for recyclable paper, glass, and cans).

Discussion:

This category should include businesses involved in reducing and reusing materials. LMID cautions that "reducing and reusing" are practices, not production. Further, this category includes businesses involved in traditional environmental pollution prevention and mitigation (i.e. air pollution mitigation through scrubbers and or water pollution mitigation through filtration and separation).

Energy efficient product manufacturing, distribution, construction, installation, and maintenance -- This includes companies involved in the research, development, and manufacturing of products such as solar panels, energy efficient light bulbs, and vehicles. It also includes construction companies that install and repair these products in new or existing residential or commercial real estate, as well as real estate planning and land development.

Discussion:

It was suggested to include "operations" to the first sentence of the definition as well as remove "construction" from the last sentence, broadening the types of companies that might "install and repair..."

This category includes the manufacturing of battery technology that is used to store renewable energy. In addition, this category includes businesses involved in producing or supplying the components that go into making or storing renewable energy, (i.e. the energy production supply chain).

This can also include architects, system control specialists. Also, water efficiency can be considered a part of energy efficiency.

An interesting issue with this category is the definition of the word "efficient." In comparison to yesterday's technology, today's equipment will be considered efficient. However, when compared to tomorrow's technology, the same equipment made today will not be considered efficient. Perhaps the word efficient should be classified against a set standard (i.e. whether the manufacturer has earned an Energy Star rating from US EPA) or against the general business as usual standard.

Additionally, it should be made clear that the EDD wrote this classification to not include operators of mass transit systems because the skills used to drive these vehicles are not different from skills used to drive gasoline powered vehicles. Manufacture and service of these vehicles, as well as fuel production, are addressed in the GREEN definition. For future reference, workers and business involved in systems efficiency and efficient vehicle operation should be included. Non-technical functions, such as planners, project managers, building inspectors, sustainability managers would also be included. LMID disagrees with this conclusion.

Education, compliance, and awareness -- This sector includes:

- Training providers for curricula such as solar panel installation, energy auditing, sustainability management, and environmental careers.

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- Environmental consulting
- Governmental/legislative compliance
- Conservation and wildlife programs
- Trading and offsets
- Social assistance

It is understood that this category includes environmental consulting of all types, and not just related to energy use. This would mean that consulting for pollution prevention as well as environmental management systems would be covered by this category.

This should also incorporate commissioning agents, and professional development. Should this include the K-12 pipeline, including STEM, as well as ROP, CTE? (CEC)

Natural and sustainable product manufacturing -- Includes companies that create products using natural materials. Also includes businesses that produce safe, nontoxic products; bamboo products; products out of previously-recycled materials, and agricultural firms that practice sustainable farming.